

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 ACDA-12 EUR-12
NSCE-00 USIE-00 TRSE-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00 EB-08 COME-00 /095 W
-----106832 101704Z /40

O R 101545Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9974
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0058

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT, XF, IS, JO
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE WEST BANK PARTICIPATION IN JERUSALEM TALKS

REF: JERUSALEM 0041

1. ABDEL-NOUR KHALIL HANHO, RAMALLAH BUSINESSMAN, TOLD CONGEN
OFFICER JAN. 9 THAT HE, ALONG WITH FELLOW RAMALLAN, HUSSEIN
SHIYOUKHI, AND HEBRONITES MUSTAFA DUDIN, BURHAN JA'ABARI
AND ABDEL WAHAB ZEHDEH, ARE WEST BANKERS WHO HAVE ASKED PERMIS-
SION OF ISRAELI MILGOV TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING POLITICAL
COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AS REPORTED REFTEL. WE
EXPECT THAN JANHO AND HIS GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR
OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT VIEWS TO POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

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2. JANHO'S VIEWS ARE THAT, WHILE PALESTINIANS ARE NOT
PRESENTLY READY FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT ON WEST BANK AND
GAZA STRIP, ISRAELI OCCUPATION MUST END. PALESTINIANS
CAN CHOOSE A GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES AFTER A BRIEF PERIOD
(UNDER FIVE YEARS). HE REJECTS BEGIN'S OFFER OF ISRAELI
CITIZENSHIP TO PALESTINIANS DURING THAT PERIOD CLAIMING
IT WOULD DIVIDE PEOPLE. AS TO ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS, HE

BELIEVES THERE MUST BE NO INCREASE IN SIZE OF ANY SETTLEMENTS DURING TRANSITION PERIOD NOR CONSTRUCTION OF ANY NEW ONES.

3. ACCORDING TO JANHO, HE MET WITH MILITARY GOVERNOR OF WEST BANK FOR OVER TWO HOURS ON JANUARY 4 TRYING TO CONVINCE HIM TO PERMIT JANHO TO REPRESENT WEST BANK PALESTINIANS AT JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS. MILGOV HAD MIXED REACTION TO THE DEMARCHE, AND POSTPONED DECISION. ON JANUARY 6, JANHO SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH MILGOV AND LATER MET WITH OTHER "MODERATES" TO DRAFT A MEMORANDUM FOR PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE, REQUESTING HIS GROUP BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE. ACCORDING TO JANHO, MEMORANDUM DEMANDS THAT NO DECISION BE MADE WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PALESTINIANS, I.E. HE AND HIS CO-SIGNERS. NOT CLEAR IF MILGOV CONCURRED IN PREPARATION OF MEMO, BUT SUBSEQUENT LEAK OF DEMARCHE AS NOTED IN REFTEL INDICATES SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH OFFER TAKEN.

4. JANHO'S TIES WITH MILGOV KNOWN TO BE VERY CLOSE. HIS EXPORT-IMPORT BUSINESS DEALS ALMOST SOLELY THROUGH ISRAELI MANUFACTURERS AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS, WITH YEARLY SALES OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS (JANHO IS NOW SHIPPING ISRAELI PASSOVER MATZOS TO THE U.S.).

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5. DESPITE PLO THREATS, JANHO DISMISSES THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY BE ATTACKED CLAIMING HE CAN DEFEND HIMSELF. (JANHO WAS RECENTLY CONVICTED OF MURDER, ALTHOUGH HIS SENTENCE WAS LIMITED TO ONE YEAR IN VIEW OF THE SELF-DEFENSIVE NATURE OF HIS ACT.)

6. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST FIRM EVIDENCE THAT SOME WEST BANKERS ACTIVELY REQUESTING PARTICIPATION IN JERUSALEM TALKS. JANHO, HOWEVER, IS NOT A VERY AUTHENTIC OR REPRESENTATIVE WEST BANKER. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL OF OUR WEST BANK CONTACTS, HE IS CLEARLY ASKING FOR TROUBLE FROM THE PLO.
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